

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An attachment system for assembling a frame comprising:

a first frame member;

a first set of mounting brackets coupled to the first frame member, the mounting brackets including a mounting flange and a tapered section, the tapered section having a raised portion and a mating surface, wherein the mating surfaces on the first set of mounting brackets taper outwardly from the frame member from top to bottom;

a second frame member; and

a second set of mounting brackets coupled to the second frame member, the mounting brackets including a mounting flange and a tapered section, the tapered section having a raised portion and a mating surface, wherein the mating surfaces on the second set of mounting brackets taper outwardly from the frame member from bottom to top;

wherein the first and second sets of mounting brackets are positioned on their respective frame members so that the raised portions and the mating surfaces of the first set of mounting brackets is aligned with the raised portions and the mating surfaces of the second set of mounting brackets so that the brackets are slidably engagable to provide an interlocking fit.

2. (Original) The attachment system of claim 1, wherein the first and second sets of mounting brackets include a left and a right mounting bracket.

3. (Original) The attachment system of claim 2, wherein the left and right mounting brackets are mirror images of one another.

4. (Original) The attachment system of claim 3, wherein the mating surfaces on the first set of mounting brackets project outwardly.

5. (Withdrawn)

6. (Currently Amended) The attachment system of claim ~~5~~4, wherein the mating surfaces on the second set of mounting brackets project inwardly.

7. (Withdrawn)

8. (Currently Amended) A frame attachment system for assembling furniture, comprising:

a pair of side panels;

a first set of mounting brackets coupled to each of said side panels; the mounting brackets including a mounting flange and a tapered section, the tapered section having a raised portion and a mating surface;

a seat portion having first and second sides; and

a second set of mounting brackets coupled to each of the first and second sides of the seat portion; the mounting brackets including a mounting flange and a tapered section, the tapered section having a raised portion and a mating surface;

wherein the first set of mounting brackets and the second set of mounting brackets are positioned with respect to each other ~~on their respective frame members~~ so that the raised portions and the mating surfaces of the first set of

mounting brackets is aligned with the raised portions and the mating surfaces of the second set of mounting brackets so that the brackets are slidably engagable to provide an interlocking fit, and wherein the first and second sets of mounting brackets include a left and right mounting brackets, the left and right mounting brackets being mirror images of one another.

9. (Withdrawn)

10. (Withdrawn)

11. (Currently Amended) The frame attachment system of claim ~~10~~8, wherein the mating surfaces on the first set of mounting brackets project inwardly.

12. (Currently Amended) The frame attachment system of claim 11, wherein the mating surfaces on the first set of mounting brackets taper from bottom to top ~~top to bottom~~.

13. (Original) The frame attachment system of claim 12, wherein the mating surfaces on the second set of mounting brackets project outwardly.

14. (Currently Amended) The frame attachment system of claim 13, wherein the mating surfaces on the second set of mounting brackets taper from top to bottom ~~bottom to top~~.

15. (Currently Amended) A frame attachment system for assembling furniture, comprising:

a pair of side panels;

a first means for attaching said side panels coupled to each of said side panels; the first attachment means for attaching including a mounting flange and a tapered section, the tapered section having a raised portion and a mating surface, wherein the mating surfaces on first means for attaching taper outwardly from bottom to top;

a seat portion having first and second sides and a second means for attaching each of the first and second sides of the seat portion; the second attachment means for attaching including a mounting flange and a tapered section, the tapered section having a raised portion and a mating surface, wherein the mating surfaces on second means for attaching taper outwardly from the seat portion from top to bottom;

wherein the first attachment means for attaching and the second attachment means for attaching are positioned where the mating surfaces are slidably engaged and wherein the engagement of the first and second attachment means provide an interlocking fit.

16. (Original) The frame attachment system of claim 15, wherein each of the first and second attachment means for attaching include a left and a right mounting bracket.

17. (Original) The frame attachment system of claim 16, wherein the left and right mounting brackets are mirror images of one another.

18. (Original) The frame attachment system of claim 17, wherein the mating surfaces on first attachment means project inwardly.

19. (Withdrawn)

20. (Currently Amended) The frame attachment system of claim ~~19~~18,
wherein the mating surfaces on second attachment means project outwardly.

21. (Withdrawn)